

Claim 1 (original) A tire tread die comprising an outer tread passage for forming an electrically non-conductive rubber outer tread, a lower under-tread passage for forming a lower layer of electrically conductive rubber characterized by;

(a) a chimney block mounted in said outer tread passage and extending from an inner surface to an outer surface of said passage;

(b) a chimney block opening extending from one end of said chimney block to an opposite end;

(c) an under-tread orifice in said outer tread passage in communication with said lower under-tread passage and with said chimney block opening;

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(d) a slot in a downstream side of said chimney block in communication with said chimney block opening and extending between said one end and said opposite end of said chimney block for communicating a narrow strip of said under-tread layer to said outer tread in said outer tread passage;

(e) A final die downstream of said outer tread passage and said lower under-tread passage for receiving said lower under-tread layer and said outer tread with said narrow strip of lower under-tread layer extending from said under-tread to an outer surface of said outer tread.

Claim 2 (original) A tire tread die in accordance with claim 1 further characterized by said lower under-tread passage having a recess at said lower under-tread opening for guiding said under-tread of electrically conductive rubber into said chimney block opening.

Claim 3 (original) A tire tread die in accordance with claim 1 further characterized by said chimney block opening being a hole drilled through said chimney block into said lower under-tread passage.

Claim 4 (original) The tire tread die of claim 1 further characterized by said chimney block being welded to an upper plate of said outer tread passage to provide said narrow strip of said under-tread layer in said outer tread without smearing.

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Claim 5 (original) The tire tread die of claim 1 further characterized by said chimney block having a flow separating protrusion at an upstream side of said chimney block.

Claim 6 (original) The tire tread die of claim 5 further characterized by said protrusion having a flow splitting tapered end at said upstream side and tapered walls from said upstream side to said downstream side of said chimney block to divert the flow of said outer tread around said chimney block.

Claims 7 - 10 (cancelled)
